

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replace all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (previously presented) An ultrasound system, comprising:
an ultrasound probe, comprising
 an ultrasonic transducer; and
 a physical sensor adapted to sense engagement with a subject to be
 scanned by the ultrasonic transducer, wherein the physical sensor is
 independent from the ultrasonic transducer; and
a control system coupled to the ultrasound probe and configured to control power
 modes of the ultrasound probe based on feedback from the physical
 sensor.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the ultrasound probe comprises a
hand holdable body.
4. (original) The system of claim 3, wherein the hand holdable body comprises at
least a portion of a beamformer.
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical sensor comprises a
pressure sensor configured to detect a contact pressure with the subject.
6. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the pressure sensor comprises a
piezoelectric sensor element.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical sensor comprises a temperature sensor configured to detect thermal proximity with the subject.

8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical sensor comprises a manual power switch.

9. (previously presented) A method for controlling heat in an ultrasound system, the method comprising:

physically sensing engagement of an ultrasound module with a subject using a non-ultrasonic sensor; and
switching power modes of the ultrasound module based on the sensed engagement.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, comprising:
manually switching the power modes at a handheld unit of the ultrasound module.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein physically sensing engagement comprises detecting a contact pressure with the subject.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein physically sensing engagement comprises detecting thermal proximity of the subject.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein physically sensing engagement comprises detecting physical contact of a hand holdable probe of the ultrasound module with the subject.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein switching power modes comprises increasing power of the ultrasound module upon sensing engagement with the subject to enable ultrasonic scanning of the subject.

15. (previously presented) An ultrasound system, comprising:
a hand holdable ultrasound probe, comprising:
 an ultrasonic transducer configured to scan a subject; and
 a non-ultrasonic sensing element configured to detect physical proximity
 of the hand holdable ultrasound probe relative to the subject; and
a control system coupled to the hand holdable ultrasound probe, wherein the
 control system is configured to switch the ultrasound probe between a
 plurality of power modes based on feedback from the sensing element.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the sensing element comprises a
pressure sensor configured to detect a contact pressure between the hand holdable
ultrasound probe and the subject.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the sensing element comprises a
temperature sensor configured to detect a temperature differential between the hand
holdable ultrasound probe and the subject.

18. (currently amended) A method of manufacture, comprising:
providing an ultrasound unit having an ultrasound transducer to scan a subject and
 a physical sensor to ~~non-ultrasonically~~ non-ultrasonically detect proximity
 of a subject relative to the ultrasound unit; and
providing a control system to change power levels of the ultrasound unit based on
 the feedback from the physical sensor.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein providing the ultrasound unit
comprises providing a hand holdable body having the ultrasound transducer, the physical
sensor, and a beamformer coupled to the ultrasound transducer.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein providing the ultrasound unit comprises disposing a pressure sensor on the hand holdable body of the ultrasound unit.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein providing the ultrasound unit comprises disposing a temperature sensor on the hand holdable body of the ultrasound unit.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) An ultrasound system, comprising:
means for sensing non-ultrasonic signals to detect physically detecting proximity of an ultrasound module relative to a subject to be scanned by ultrasonic transducers of the ultrasound module; and
means for switching power modes of the ultrasound probe based on proximity feedback from the means for sensing.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical sensor comprises a pressure sensor and a temperature sensor.